

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIGS. 11 and 12. This sheet, which includes FIGS. 11 and 12, replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 11 and 12.

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 29, 2004, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 51 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 21, 22, 24, 25, 29, 31 and 47 stand rejected. Claims 3, 5, 7 through 20 and 23 have been objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but the indication of allowable subject matter in such claims is noted with appreciation. Claims 26 through 28, 30, 32 through 46 and 48 through 51 are allowed. Applicants have amended claims 4, 21, 29 and 47. Reconsideration is respectfully submitted.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Claim Rejections

Claims 4, 6, 21, 29, 31 and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

It was stated that the originally filed specification failed to teach the at least first or second mechanism configured to manipulate a difference in pressure within the adhesive material and ambient air to be equal to twice the surface tension of the adhesive material divided by a radius of curvature of the adhesive material as the adhesive material is extruded through the at least one second mechanism. Applicants respectfully disagree. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, applicants have amended claims 4 and 29, to specifically refer to a "coating stencil." Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The Examiner stated that the originally filed specification failed to teach at least one mechanism which raises and lowers the viscous material to a desired level above the opening, maintain surface of viscous material at a substantially constant height and increases an exposed surface of the viscous material and is further comprised of, or has in addition, a vacuum. Similarly, it was stated that the specification failed to teach an apparatus with various components including a vacuum. Applicants respectfully submit that the as-filed specification supports the use of a combination of elements to control the adhesive material. (Specification, paragraphs [0035] to [0056]). Further, applicants have amended Figs. 11 and 12 to illustrate a

vacuum as described in the as-filed specification in paragraphs [0045] and [0053] and the description of Fig. 18. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Drawing Objection

The drawings were objected to for failing to illustrate a vacuum. Applicants have amended Figs. 11 and 12 to illustrate a vacuum as described in the as-filed specification in paragraphs [0045] and [0053] and the description of Fig. 18. The specification has been amended at paragraph [0045] to include a reference numeral for the vacuum. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Anticipation Rejections

Anticipation Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 5,901,899 to Flache

Claims 1, 2, 22, 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Flache (U.S. Patent No. 5,901,899). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Brothers v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Flache discloses a wave soldering machine and a method of adjusting and automatically controlling the height of a solder wave. A pump 12 transports solder through a narrow opening 13 in a nozzle 11 such that the solder follows a trajectory 10 comprising an arc. (Flache, Fig. 1). A pressure sensor 18 regulates the amount of pressure on the solder to control the height of the arc. (Flache, col. 2, line 65- col. 3, line 9).

By way of contrast with Flache, independent claim 1 of the presently claimed invention recites an “apparatus for applying adhesive material to one or more underside surfaces of at least one semiconductor component, comprising: an adhesive reservoir configured to provide an

exposed surface of adhesive material to only a defined portion of each of one or more underside surfaces of at least one semiconductor component positioned thereover, the adhesive reservoir comprising at least one pool chamber defined by at least one upward facing opening, the adhesive reservoir shaped such that the exposed surface of adhesive material is supplied to a precise location above the at least one upward facing opening, the adhesive material having a surface tension; and at least one mechanism associated with the adhesive reservoir, the at least one mechanism configured to level the exposed surface of adhesive material at the precise location above the at least one upward facing opening and maintain the exposed surface of adhesive material at a substantially constant height, the at least one mechanism including at least a pump configured to supply the adhesive material to the adhesive reservoir and a control system to control the supply of the adhesive material to the adhesive reservoir to control extrusion of the adhesive material to a selectable height.

Applicants respectfully submit that Flache fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently, every element of claim 1 of the presently claimed invention. Specifically, Flache fails to disclose “the at least one mechanism configured to level the exposed surface of adhesive material at the precise location above the at least one upward facing opening and maintain the exposed surface of adhesive material at a substantially constant height.” Instead, Flache discloses that the solder travels in a trajectory. (Flache, Fig. 1).

As Flache fails to disclose every element of claim 1 of the presently claimed invention, applicants respectfully submit that Flache fails to anticipate claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 of the presently claimed invention is allowable.

Claims 2, 22 and 24-25 are each allowable as depending from allowable claim 1.

Objections to Claims 3, 5, 7-20 and 23/Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 5, 7 through 20 and 23 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but are indicated to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if placed in appropriate independent form. Applicants appreciate the notice of allowability, but respectfully submit that claims 3, 5, 7 through 20 and 23 are further allowable as depending from allowable claim 1.


ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

The amendments to the claims above should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application. Further, the amendments do not raise new issues or require a further search.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1 through 51 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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KWP/dlm:ljb

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Document in ProLaw

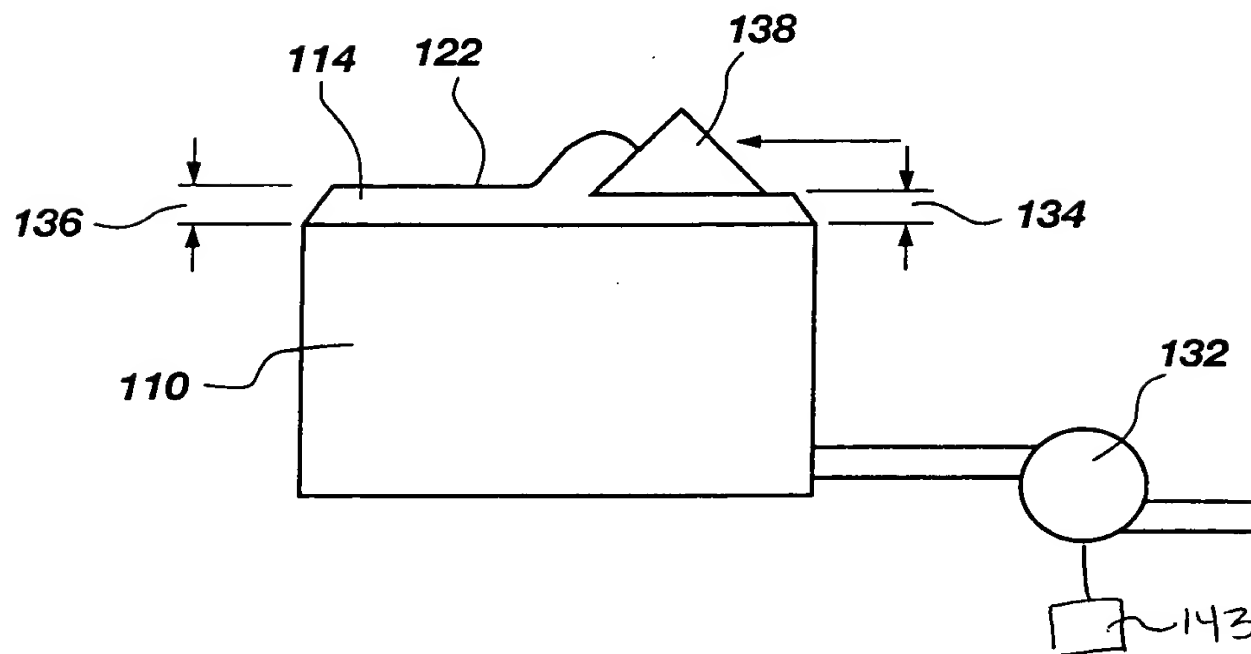


Fig. 11

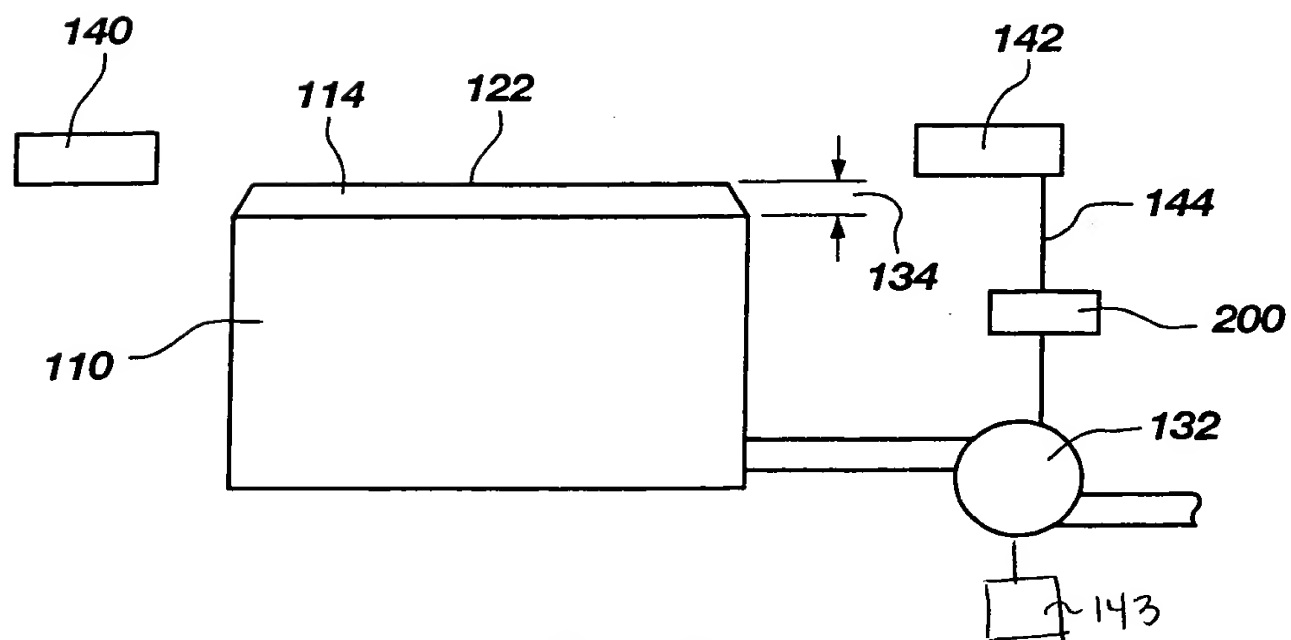


Fig. 12